IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Application Number: 10/653,666

Filing Date: 09/02/2003

Applicant(s):   Koichi Takahashi

Entitled: REVERSE PROXY MEDIATOR FOR SERVERS

Examiner: Gerald A. Smarth

Group Art Unit: 2446

Attorney Docket No.:   JP920020097US1 (7161-543U)

TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith is Appellant's Appeal Brief in support of the Notice of

Appeal dated November 12, 2009. Please charge any shortage in fees due under

37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17, 41.20, and in connection with the filing of this paper, including

extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 09-0461, and please credit any excess

fees to such deposit account.

Date: March 12, 2010   Respectfully submitted,

                              /Steven M. Greenberg/
                              Steven M. Greenberg
                              Registration No. 44,725
                              Customer Number 46320

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APPEAL BRIEF

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Sir:

This Appeal Brief is submitted in support of the Notice of Appeal filed November 12, 2009, wherein Appellants appeal from the Examiner's rejection of claims 9 through 17 and 21 through 23.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

This application is assigned to International Business Machines Corporation by assignment recorded on September 2, 2003 at Reel 014483, Frame 0848.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant is unaware of any related appeals and interferences.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 9 through 17 and 21 through 23 are pending in this Application. Claims 9 through 17 have been rejected three times and claims 21 through 23 have been rejected once. Claims 1 through 8 and 18 were canceled in the amendment dated July 11, 2007 (the "First Amendment"). Claims 19 and 20 where added in the First Amendment. Claims 19 and 20 were canceled in the amendment dated April 15, 2009 (the "Second Amendment"). Claims 21 through 23 were added in the Second Amendment. It is from the multiple rejections of claims 9 through 17 and 21 through 23 that this Appeal is taken.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Claims 9 and 12 through 17 where amended in the First Amendment. Claims 9 and 10 were amended again in the Second Amendment.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

With respect to claim 9, computer equipment relaying transmission of an HTTP request and return of an HTTP response between a terminal and a server is provided. (Par. [0043]) The equipment includes HTTP request transfer means for relaying the HTTP response with a cookie sent from a browser of the terminal to transfer the HTTP request with the cookie to the server as a destination of the HTTP request. (Par. [0045]) The equipment further includes HTTP response transfer means for receiving the HTTP response returned from the server in response to the HTTP request, (Par. [0090]) deleting a domain described in a Set-Cookie header, (Par. [0091]) rearranging components of the domain separated by a punctuation character into an inverse order, (Par. [0088]) embedding the rearranged components into a path described in the Set-Cookie header, (Par. [0091]) embedding a remote port on which the HTTP response was received into the path described in the Set-Cookie header, (Par. [0149]) and transferring the HTTP response with the Set-Cookie header to the terminal. (Par. [0179]) In this regard, re-arranging the components of the domain in the inverse order includes exchanging positions of a first and last component of the components of the domain. (Pars. [0128] and [0129])

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With respect to claim 14, a data processing method for relaying data exchanged between first computer equipment and second computer equipment is provided. (Par. [0043]) The system includes receiving a response sent from the first computer equipment to the second computer equipment. (Par. [0045]) The system also includes determining whether the response includes a Set-Cookie header. (Par. [0078]) In this regard, the Set-Cookie header includes a domain having components separated by a punctuation character. (Par. [0079]) The system also includes rewriting the Set-Cookie header when the response includes the Set-Cookie header so that a cookie set on the second computer equipment based on the Set-Cookie header will have a format recognizable by the second computer equipment. (Par. [0080]) Additionally, rewriting the Set-Cookie header includes exchanging positions of a first and last component of the components of the domain. (Pars. [0128] and [0129]) Finally, the system includes sending the second computer the response with the Set-Cookie header. (Par. [0179])

In respect to claim 15, a program product is disposed in a recordable type medium for controlling computer equipment relaying data exchanged between first computer equipment and second computer equipment to perform predetermined data processing. (Par. [0043]) The program product includes first processing means for receiving a response sent from the first computer equipment to the

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second computer equipment. (Par. [0045]) The program product also includes

second processing means for rewriting a Set-Cookie header when the response

includes the Set-Cookie header so that a cookie set on the second computer

equipment based on the Set-Cookie header will have a format recognizable by the

second computer equipment. (Par. [0080]) In this regard, the Set-Cookie header

includes a domain having components separated by a punctuation character. (Par.

[0079]) Further, rewriting the Set-Cookie header includes exchanging positions of

a first and last component of the components of the domain. (Pars. [0128] and

[0129]) Finally, the program product includes third processing means for sending

the second computer equipment the response with said Set-Cookie header. (Par.

[0179])

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Claims 9 and 11 through 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as

being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,938,171 to Isomichi in view of U.S.

Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0037292 by Vogut and further in view of

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037102 by Eckert.

Claims 14 through 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Isomichi in view of Vogut.

Claims 10 and 21 through 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Isomichi, Vogut, Eckert and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,337,910 to Cartmell.

VII. THE ARGUMENT

THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS 9 AND 11 THROUGH 13 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A)

On pages 3 through 5 of the Non-Final Office Action dated June 11, 2009 (the "Last Non-Final Office Action"), Examiner rejected claim 9 as being a mere obvious combination of Isomichi, Vogut and Eckert. For the convenience of the Honorable Board, claims 11 through 13 stand or fall with independent claim 9.

Section 2141 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (M.P.E.P.) sets forth guidelines intended to assist personnel of the United States Patent and Trademark Office in making a proper determination of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103, and to provide an appropriate supporting rationale in view recent judicial developments in regard to 35 U.S.C. § 103. Included as part of M.P.E.P. section 2141 are the "Examination Guidelines for Determining Obviousness Under 35 U.S.C. 103 in View of the Supreme Court Decision in KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc." (hereinafter the Examination Guidelines). Section III of M.P.E.P. 2141 is entitled "Rationales To Support Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103."

Within Section III of M.P.E.P. 2141 is the following quote from the Supreme Court: "rejections on obviousness grounds cannot be sustained by merely conclusory statements; instead there must be some articulated reasoning with some rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness." KSR Int'l Co.,127 S. Ct. 1727, 1741 (2007) (quoting In re Kahn, 441 F.3d 977, 988 (Fed. Cir. 2006)). Further referring to Section III of the Examination Guidelines, the following is a list of rationales that may be used to support a finding of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

> ***(A) Combining prior art elements according to known methods to yield predictable results;***
> (B) Simple substitution of one known element for another to obtain predictable results;
> (C) Use of known technique to improve similar devices (methods, or products) in the same way;
> (D) Applying a known technique to a known device (method, or product) ready for improvement to yield predictable results;
> (E) "Obvious to try" - choosing from a finite number of identified, predictable solutions, with a reasonable expectation of success;
> (F) Known work in one field of endeavor may prompt variations of it for use in either the same field or a different one based on design incentives or other market forces if the variations would have been predictable to one of ordinary skill in the art;
> (G) Some teaching, suggestion, or motivation in the prior art that would have led one of ordinary skill to modify the prior art reference or to combine prior art reference teachings to arrive at the claimed invention.

Upon reviewing the Examiner's analysis in the paragraph spanning pages 3 through 5 of the Last Non-Final Office Action, the Examiner appears to be employing rationale (A). If the Examiner is not relying upon rationale (A), Appellants request that the Examiner in an Examiner's Answer clearly identify the rationale, as described in the Examination Guidelines, being employed by the Examiner in rejecting the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In any event, with respect to rationale (A), the Examination Guidelines set forth a precise process for which the Examiner must follow in order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Specifically, to reject a claim based on this rationale, Office personnel must resolve the Graham factual inquiries. Thereafter, Office personnel must then articulate the following:

> (1) ***a finding that the prior art included each element claimed,*** although not necessarily in a single prior art reference, with the only difference between the claimed invention and the prior art being the lack of actual combination of the elements in a single prior art reference;
> (2) a finding that one of ordinary skill in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods, and that in combination, each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately;
> (3) a finding that one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable; and
> (4) whatever additional findings based on the Graham factual inquiries may be necessary, in view of the facts of the case under consideration, to explain a conclusion of obviousness.

In articulating a finding that the prior art included each element claimed in a

rejected claim, however, as a first step the Examiner must establish a proper

construction of the claims such that the claims are "given their broadest reasonable

interpretation consistent with the specification,"[1]

Claim 9 as amended provides for computer equipment relaying transmission of

an HTTP request and return of an HTTP response between a terminal and a server.

For the convenience of the Honorable Board, claim 9 sets forth as amended:

> 9.   Computer equipment relaying transmission of an HTTP request and return
> of an HTTP response between a terminal and a server; comprising:
>
> HTTP request transfer means for relaying the HTTP response with a
> cookie sent from a browser of the terminal to transfer the HTTP request with said
> cookie to the server as a destination of the HTTP request; and
>
> HTTP response transfer means for receiving the HTTP response returned
> from the server in response to the HTTP request, deleting a domain described in a
> Set-Cookie header, rearranging components of said domain into an inverse order,
> embedding said rearranged components into a path described in said Set-Cookie
> header, embedding a remote port on which the HTTP response was received into
> the path described in said Set-Cookie header, and transferring the HTTP response
> with said Set-Cookie header to the terminal, wherein rearranging the plurality of
> components of said domain are separated by a punctuation character, and wherein
> rearranging the plurality of components of said domain in the inverse order
> includes exchanging positions of a first and last component of the plurality of
> components of said domain.

Integral to claim 9 is the claimed rearrangement of components of a domain

described in a Set-Cookie header into an inverse order and the embedding of the

---

[1] In re ICON Health and Fitness, Inc., 496 F.3d 1374, 1379 (Fed. Cir. 2007) ("[T]he PTO must give claims their broadest
reasonable construction consistent with the specification. Therefore, we look to the specification to see if it provides a definition
for claim terms, but otherwise apply a broad interpretation."); In re Hyatt, 211 F.3d 1367, 1372, 54 USPQ2d 1664, 1667 (Fed.
Cir. 2000).

rearranged components into a path described in the Set-Cookie header. Examiner

argues at page 3 of the Last Non-Final Office Action that this critical teaching can

be found in Figure 10 of Isomichi.

> Specifically, Examiner argued verbatim:
>
> Regarding Claim 9, Isomichi teaches is drawn to computer equipment relaying transmission of an HTTP request and return of an HTTP response between a terminal and a server; comprising:
>
> HTTP request transfer means for relaying the HTTP response with a cookie sent from a browser of the terminal to transfer the HTTP request with said cookie to the server as a destination of the HTTP request (Isomichi's system relays requests and responses between a terminal and a server, including set-cookie information); and
>
> HTTP response transfer means for receiving the HTTP response returned from the server in response to the HTTP request, deleting a domain described in a Set-Cookie header, embedding a remote port on which the HTTP response was received into the path described in said Set-Cookie header, rearranging components of said domain into an inverse order, embedding said rearranged components into a path described in said Set-Cookie header, and transferring the HTTP response with said Set-Cookie header to the terminal (Isomichi's system removes the domain field, rearranges it, and places it in the path field of the set-cookie header before sending the response back to the terminal, as can be seen in Figure 10).

Regrettably, Examiner provides no original analysis, refers to a single figure of

Isomichi and paraphrases Appellant's claim language as the sole basis of the rejection

of all of claims 9, 11, 12 and 13.

As noted by the Supreme Court in <u>Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo</u>

<u>Kabushiki Co.</u>,[9] a clear and complete prosecution file record is important in that

"[p]rosecution history estoppel requires that the claims of a patent be interpreted in light of the proceedings in the PTO during the application process." The Courts that are in a position to review the rejections set forth by the Examiner (i.e., the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, the Federal Circuit, and the Supreme Court) can only review what has been written in the record; and therefore, the Examiner must clearly set forth the rationale for the rejection and clearly and particularly point out those elements within the applied prior art being relied upon by the Examiner in the statement of the rejection.

This requirement that the Examiner clearly set forth the rationale for the rejection and clearly and particularly point out those elements within the applied prior art being relied upon by the Examiner in the statement of the rejection is found in with 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(c), which reads:

> In rejecting claims for want of novelty or for obviousness, the examiner must cite the best references at his or her command. When a reference is complex or shows or describes inventions other than that claimed by the applicant, **the particular part relied on must be designated as nearly as practicable. The pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained and each rejected claim specified.**

Moreover, in the unpublished opinion of <u>Ex parte Pryor</u>[10], the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences recognized the necessity for an Examiner to supply sufficient information to establish a prima facie case of anticipation. Specifically, the Board wrote:

> At the outset, we note the examiner has been of little help in particularly
> explaining the rejections on appeal. A mere statement that claims stand rejected
> "as being clearly anticipated by" a particular reference, without any further
> rationale, such as pointing out corresponding elements between the instant claims
> and the applied reference, fails to clearly make out a <u>prima facie</u> case of
> anticipation. (emphasis in original)

Despite the very specific requirement for the Examiner to clearly set forth the rationale for the rejection and clearly and particularly point out those elements within the applied prior art being relied upon by the Examiner, the Examiner has failed to do so. Instead, the Examiner's statement of the rejection simply consists of the Examiner repeating, almost word-for-word, each of the recited claims and asserting that the entire claim is disclosed by certain specified passages within the combination of Isomichi, Vogut and Eckert. The manner in which the Examiner conveyed the statement of the rejection, however, has not "designated as nearly as practicable" the <u>particular</u> <u>parts</u> in Isomichi, Vogut and Eckert being relied upon in the rejection.

It is <u>practicable</u> for the Examiner, for <u>each</u> of the claimed elements, to specifically identify <u>each</u> feature within Isomichi, Vogut and Eckert (and particularly Isomichi) being relied upon to teach each of the particular claimed elements. For example, the Examiner can "specifically identify" a feature, corresponding to the claimed element, within the applied prior art by identifying a reference numeral associated with the feature. In addition to or alternatively, the

Examiner may cite to a brief passage (i.e., 1 or 2 lines or even a portion of a line) within the applied prior art that identifies the feature that corresponds to the claimed element. However, merely citing one or more entire paragraphs to disclose a single (or multiple) claimed elements does not designate, "as nearly as practicable," the particular features within Isomichi, Vogut and Eckert being relied upon by the Examiner in the rejection.

The importance of the specificity requirement of 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(c) is also further evident in M.P.E.P. § 706.07, which states:

> The examiner should never lose sight of the fact that in every case the applicant is entitled to a full and fair hearing, and that a clear issue between applicant and examiner should be developed, if possible, before appeal.

A clear issue, however, cannot be developed between Appellant and the Examiner where the basis for the Examiner's rejection of the claims is <u>ambiguous</u>. The Examiner's "analysis" provides little insight as to (i) how the Examiner is interpreting the elements of the claims and (ii) what <u>specific</u> features within Isomichi, Vogut and Eckert the Examiner believes identically discloses the <u>specific</u> elements (and interactions between elements) recited in the claims. By failing to specifically identify those features within Isomichi, Vogut and Eckert being relied upon in the rejection, the Examiner has essentially forced Appellant to engage in mind reading and/or guessing to determine how the Examiner is interpreting the

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elements of the claims and what specific features within Isomichi, Vogut and

Eckert the Examiner believes identically disclose the claimed invention.

In any event, Figure 10 of Isomichi appears to lack almost all of the claimed

teachings outlined above and in particular, the teaching of the rearrangement of

components of a domain described in a Set-Cookie header into an inverse order

and the embedding of the rearranged components into a path described in the Set-

Cookie header. For the convenience of the Honorable Board, Figure 10 is

reproduced herein as follows:
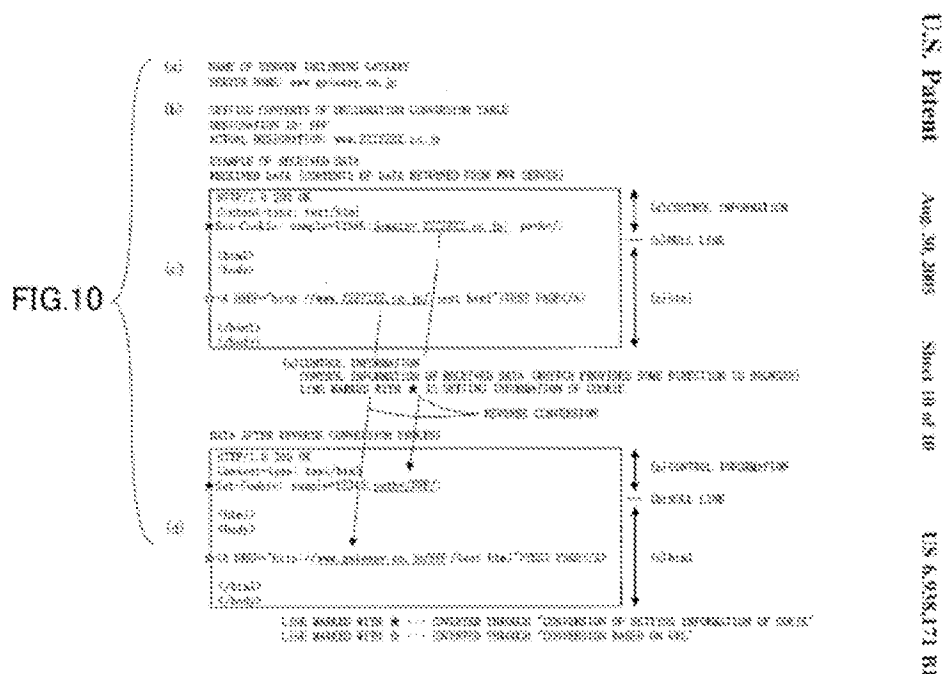
As will be plainly apparent from element (c) and element (d) of Figure 10, the Set-Cookie directive before "reverse conversion" is:

sample=12345; domain=ZZZZZZZ.co.jp: path=/

and subsequent to "reverse conversion" the Set-Cookie directive is:

sample=12345; path=/FFF/

Clearly, the Set-Cookie directive has changed in Figure 10 with the domain having been removed and the path augmented. However, in no way are the components of the domain described in the Set-Cookie header rearranged into an inverse order and embedded into a path described in the Set-Cookie header as argued (poorly) by Examiner. Thus, to the extent that Isomichi lacks the several teachings highlighted herein, Examiner has failed to set forth a prima facie case of obviousness under rationale (A) of the Examination Guidelines and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS 14 THROUGH 17 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A)

On pages 6 and 7 of the Last Non-Final Office Action, Examiner rejects claim 14 and companion claim 15 as being obvious in light of Isomichi and Vogut. For the convenience of the Honorable Board, claims 16 and 17 stand or fall together with claim 15.

Claim 14 recites a data processing method for relaying data exchanged between first computer equipment and second computer equipment. Specifically, claim 14 sets forth as follows:

> 14.   A data processing method for relaying data exchanged between first computer equipment and second computer equipment, comprising:
>   receiving a response sent from the first computer equipment to the second computer equipment;
>   determining whether said response includes a Set-Cookie header, wherein said Set-Cookie header includes a domain having a plurality of components, and wherein the plurality of components are separated by a punctuation character;
>   rewriting said Set-Cookie header when said response includes said Set-Cookie header so that a cookie set on the second computer equipment based on said Set-Cookie header will have a format recognizable by the second computer equipment, wherein rewriting said Set-Cookie header includes exchanging positions of a first and last component of the plurality of components of said domain; and
>   sending the second computer said response with said Set-Cookie header.

Critical to claim 14 and also companion claim 15 is the rewriting of a Set-Cookie header by exchanging positions of a first and last component of the components of the domain of the Set-Cookie header.

On page 6 of the Last Non-Final Office Action, Examiner relies exclusively upon column 10, lines 42 through 46 of Isomichi for providing the critical claimed teaching of rewriting of a Set-Cookie header by exchanging positions of a first and last component of the components of the domain of the Set-Cookie header. Again, regrettably, Examiner has provided little if any analysis in doing so and only argues as follows (reproduced verbatim from the text of page 6 of the Last Non-Final Office Action):

wherein rewriting said Set-Cookie header includes exchanging positions of a first
and last component of the plurality of components of said domain; and sending
the second computer equipment said response with said Set-Cookie header.
**(Isomichi's system sends the response on to the user after the reverse
conversion process [column 10, lines 42-46]).**

Thus, Examiner's entire rationale for this complex teaching is that the Isomichi

system "sends the response on to the user after the reverse conversion process".

Column 10, lines 42 through 46 of Isomichi state, " Further, when the response

to the request is received, the response is returned to the user 7 through the reverse

conversion process and at the same time, the designation included in the control

information including access data of the user to the WWW server is inversely

converted." In that Examiner expects Appellant and the Honorable Board to

somehow imagine what rationale Examiner had in mind when setting forth this

horrendous statement of a rejection is mind boggling. The plain claim language of

claims 14 and 15 require the rewriting of a Set-Cookie header by exchanging

positions of a first and last component of the components of the domain of the Set-

Cookie header. Does the Examiner actually believe that this complex teaching is

somehow equivalent to a "reverse conversion process"?

To the extent the Examiner, having considered the foregoing arguments,

persists and prepares an Examiner's Answer, Examiner is reminded of Examiner's

responsibility under M.P.E.P. 1207.02(A)(1)(9)(e) to map every claim term in

either of claims 14 or 15 to the Isomichi and Vogut references. In this regard, for the convenience of the Examiner the entirety of is provided herein:

> For each rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 where there are questions as to how limitations in the claims correspond to features in the prior art even after the examiner complies with the requirements of paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section, the examiner must compare at least one of the rejected claims **feature by feature** with the prior art relied on in the rejection. **The comparison must align the language of the claim <u>side-by-side</u> with a reference to <u>the specific page, line number, drawing reference number, and quotation</u> from the prior art, as appropriate.**

Specifically, Examiner must point out **with particularity** the precise teaching in Isomichi that maps to the claimed elements (1) rewriting said Set-Cookie header includes exchanging positions of a first and last component of the plurality of components; (2) of said domain [specified in the Set-Cookie header], while applying the ordinary meaning of "domain" as a proper claim construction under M.P.E.P. 2111.01(I).[2]

THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS 10 AND 21 THROUGH 23 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A)

For the convenience of the Honorable Board, claims 1 and 21 through 23 stand or fall together with claim 9.

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[2] Although claims of issued patents are interpreted in light of the specification, prosecution history, prior art and other claims, this is not the mode of claim interpretation to be applied during examination. During examination, the claims must be interpreted as broadly as their terms reasonably allow. <u>In re American Academy of Science Tech Center</u>, 367 F.3d 1359, 1369, 70 USPQ2d 1827, 1834 (Fed. Cir. 2004)

Appellants, therefore, respectfully solicit the Honorable Board to reverse the

Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Date: March 12, 2010   Respectfully submitted,

                                        /Steven M. Greenberg/
                                        Steven M. Greenberg
                                        Registration No. 44,725
                                        Customer Number 46320

VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

1.   Canceled.

2.   Canceled.

3.   Canceled.

4.   Canceled.

5.   Canceled.

6.   Canceled.

7.   Canceled.

8.   Canceled.

9.   (Previously Amended)   Computer equipment relaying transmission of an

HTTP request and return of an HTTP response between a terminal and a server;

comprising:

HTTP request transfer means for relaying the HTTP response with a cookie

sent from a browser of the terminal to transfer the HTTP request with said cookie

to the server as a destination of the HTTP request; and

HTTP response transfer means for receiving the HTTP response returned

from the server in response to the HTTP request, deleting a domain described in a

Set-Cookie header, rearranging components of said domain into an inverse order,

embedding said rearranged components into a path described in said Set-Cookie

header, embedding a remote port on which the HTTP response was received into

the path described in said Set-Cookie header, and transferring the HTTP response

with said Set-Cookie header to the terminal, wherein rearranging the plurality of

components of said domain are separated by a punctuation character, and wherein

rearranging the plurality of components of said domain in the inverse order

includes exchanging positions of a first and last component of the plurality of

components of said domain.

10.   (Previously Amended)   The computer equipment according to claim 9,

wherein the punctuation character is a first punctuation character, and wherein the

remote port is separated from the plurality of components of said domain by a second punctuation character.

11.   (Original)   The computer equipment according to claim 9, wherein said HTTP response transfer means adds a predetermined fixed-character string to said Set-Cookie header according to the HTTP response, and transfers the HTTP response with said Set-Cookie header to the terminal.

12.   (Previously Amended)   The computer equipment according to claim 9, wherein said HTTP response transfer means compiles the plurality of components necessary for identifying said domain when rearranging the plurality of components in inverse order, and transfers the HTTP response to the terminal.

13.   (Previously Amended)   The computer equipment according to claim 9, wherein said HTTP response transfer means replaces a domain parameter of the server in said Set-Cookie header by another server name, and transfers the HTTP response to the terminal.

14.   (Previously Amended)   A data processing method for relaying data exchanged between first computer equipment and second computer equipment, comprising:

receiving a response sent from the first computer equipment to the second computer equipment;

determining whether said response includes a Set-Cookie header, wherein said Set-Cookie header includes a domain having a plurality of components, and wherein the plurality of components are separated by a punctuation character;

rewriting said Set-Cookie header when said response includes said Set-Cookie header so that a cookie set on the second computer equipment based on said Set-Cookie header will have a format recognizable by the second computer equipment, wherein rewriting said Set-Cookie header includes exchanging positions of a first and last component of the plurality of components of said domain; and

sending the second computer said response with said Set-Cookie header.

15.   (Previously Amended)   A program product in a recordable type medium for controlling computer equipment relaying data exchanged between first computer equipment and second computer equipment to perform predetermined data processing, comprising:

first processing means for receiving a response sent from the first computer equipment to the second computer equipment;

second processing means for rewriting a Set-Cookie header when said response includes said Set-Cookie header so that a cookie set on the second computer equipment based on said Set-Cookie header will have a format recognizable by the second computer equipment, wherein said Set-Cookie header includes and domain having a plurality of components, wherein the plurality of components are separated by a punctuation character, and wherein rewriting said Set-Cookie header includes exchanging positions of a first and last component of the plurality of components of said domain; and

third processing means for sending the second computer equipment said response with said Set-Cookie header.

16.   (Previously Amended)   The program product according to claim 15, wherein during processing in said second processing means for rewriting said Set-Cookie header, a sequence of said domain included in said Set-Cookie header of said response is altered into an inverse order, and a delimiter of said domain is replaced by a predetermined character to generate a path including said domain rearranged into said inverse order.

17. (Previously Amended) The program product according to claim 15, further comprising means for controlling the first and second computer equipment to rewrite said domain and a first path of a link and location included in said response in conformity with a second path included in said Set-Cookie header.

18. Canceled.

19. Canceled.

20. Canceled.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer equipment according to claim 9, wherein the punctuation character is a first punctuation character, and further comprising:

identifying a top level domain name component in the plurality of component of the plurality of components of the domain name and a second level domain name component in the plurality of components of the domain name;

joining the top level domain name component and the second level domain name component with a second punctuation character.

22.   (Previously Presented)   The computer equipment according to claim 21, wherein the second punctuation character is a different punctuation character than the first punctuation character.

23.   (Previously Presented)   The computer equipment according to claim 21, wherein the first punctuation character is a slash, and wherein the second punctuation character is a hyphen.

IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

No evidence submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 of this title or of any other evidence entered by the Examiner has been relied upon by Appellant in this Appeal, and thus no evidence is attached hereto.

X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

Since Appellant is unaware of any related appeals and interferences, no decision rendered by a court or the Board is attached hereto.